

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

Health SPHere

2004

Health SPHere: Spring 2004

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/17886>

Boston University

health sphere

BOSTON UNIVERSITY • SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Spring '04



Public Health

Making the Connections

inside



2

New Associate Dean Gerald Keusch brings a global perspective to BUSPH.

5

Barbara St. Onge retires after twenty-three years of service to the School.

6

Professor George Annas looks at the ethics of cloning.

8

The School's new Doctor of Public Health program will prepare professionals for leadership roles.

10

A new five-year B.S./M.P.H. program will help Sargent College students become more competitive.

13

Laura Armstrong ('81) establishes a scholarship for African women who want to pursue public health.

14

Class Notes

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

health sphere

Dean: Robert F. Meenan (MED'72, GSM'89)

Director, Institutional Development and Alumni Relations:
Elizabeth M. Ollen

Assistant Director, Institutional Development and Alumni Relations:
Joan Troost Caldwell

Development Associate: Jane Cormuss

Alumni Officer: Anne Lefaiivre

Media Relations Manager: Jodi Petrie (COM'93)

Editor: Cynthia K. Buccini (CAS'84, COM'87)

Managing Editor: Jennifer Becker

Contributing Writer: Taylor McNeil

Graphic Designer: Wendy Garbarino (CFA'96)

Design Assistants: Laini Leto (CFA'04), Amy Osborne

Proofreader: Mary Cohen

Production Manager: Amy Osborne

Photography: Boston University Photo Services, unless otherwise noted

Produced by the Publications Group of the Boston University Office of University Development and Alumni Relations

Boston University's policies provide for equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and admission to all programs of the University.

from the Dean



This inaugural issue of *Health Sphere* is Boston University School of Public Health's newest vehicle for keeping in touch with members of our community. BUSPH continues to build on our strengths, even as we strike out in new directions. We want to keep you informed about news of faculty, academic plans, and activities of our alumni and students.

It is our hope that you will remain a part of the School's ongoing journey. We are proud of this institution and all that it has to offer, and

we look forward to sharing our news with you.

Robert F. Meenan
M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.

Our New Look *Welcome to Health Sphere.*

This magazine, which will be published twice a year, includes news of interest to alumni and friends of the BUSPH community.

Health Sphere reflects a new era in development and alumni relations at BUSPH, as the activities formerly under the capable direction of Barbara St. Onge (see page 5) have been assumed by the Office of Institutional Development and Alumni Relations staff: Elizabeth M. Ollen, director; Joan Troost Caldwell, assistant director; Jane Cormuss, development associate; Anne Lefaivre, alumni officer; and Jodi Petrie, media relations manager.

Please let us know what you think of the publication by contacting Anne Lefaivre at 617-414-1401, sphalum@bu.edu, or 715 Albany Street, T517 East, Boston, Massachusetts 02118. We look forward to hearing from you!



SPH Goes Global

New Associate Dean for Global Health Gerald Keusch Is a Leader in the Field

By Taylor McNeil

For Gerald Keusch, serendipity wasn't too far behind intention in shaping his career. Fresh out of Harvard Medical School in the early 1960s, more interested in human biology than a medical practice, Keusch applied for several research fellowship positions at the National Institutes of Health. His first choice, a safe one, was to do research on myelomas in mice, trying to discover how immunoglobulin recognizes antigens. His second choice was to join the International Research Career Development Program, through which young researchers worked at overseas labs. He didn't get his first choice—that position went to a classmate—and Keusch's international research career was launched.

Keusch joined BUSPH in January as associate dean for global health and professor of

international health; he is also assistant provost for global health at the BU Medical Campus and professor of medicine at the School of Medicine. Throughout his career, his research has focused primarily on infectious diseases and nutrition, areas of particular impact in the developing world. Keusch is especially well known as a leader in the global health field. He came to BU from the Fogarty International Center at NIH, which he directed for more than five years. While he was there, the center conducted major research on noncommunicable diseases, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and the impact of health on economic development and vice versa. "Jerry Keusch's commitment to global health and his vision of reducing health disparities between rich and poor nations serves as a model to us all," NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni said as Keusch left Fogarty. "His leadership in global health has benefited the whole of NIH, as well as scientific institutions around the world."

At BU, he's busy making connections throughout the Medical and Charles River campuses, tying together many constituencies in global health studies—from BUSPH's applied research in Asia and Africa to the College of Engineering's work in genomics and computational biology, from economics programs at the College of Arts and Sciences to intellectual property issues at the School

of Law. It's all part of supporting a three-pronged approach to global health, he says: teaching, research, and policy.

While BUSPH has long been a leader in public health teaching and research, influencing international policy hasn't been easy without the right connections. Keusch intends to help. As Fogarty's associate director for international research, he represented NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services at meetings and conferences with the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and

unique, experience to contribute, and many more who want to participate," Keusch says. "Now is the time to develop that access."

BUSPH Dean Robert Meenan concurs.

"Dr. Keusch's diverse experience in research—from the bench to the field—and its application to critical global health issues, combined with his policymaking experience at the NIH and his international contacts, make him uniquely qualified to lead our University-wide commitment to address the great inequalities in health between rich and poor nations," he says.

Global health, Keusch notes, means more than international health. "The recent use of the term 'global health' relates to the realization that health problems abroad are more directly related to those we have at home," he says. The migration of people with diseases and disease susceptibilities (primarily from low-income, developing countries) is one example. But diseases in other countries (again primarily low-income, developing countries) can cause political, economic, and social disruptions that also affect us. "Global health should be seen in the context of globalization, as economies are linked, as people move across borders, and as politics can no longer be isolated," Keusch says. "As a set of issues affecting all populations, it is essential to think in terms of global—not just local—solutions."

New Perspectives

Keusch's international interests began even before his early work with the International Research Career Development Program. "After my second year of medical school, I took a year off. I went to Israel and worked in an immunology laboratory," he says. "It was fun not being here; it was fun being there. I got a very different perspective on the world, and I decided I liked to travel."

Good thing, too, since his first position with the NIH program was at a lab in Bangkok—where cholera was then prevalent—working on the biology of cholera toxin. Two years later Keusch was a research fellow at Tufts–New England Medical Center's division of infectious diseases, headed by Louis Weinstein (MED'43, Hon.'73), one of the founders of the academic discipline of infectious diseases. "I was fascinated by Lou's multiple talents and inspired by him to set my goals high," he says. >



Gerald Keusch is making connections throughout the Medical and Charles River campuses.

other international and national organizations and foundations. "There were plenty of people from Harvard, plenty of people from Hopkins and a few other places, but BU did not have a strong presence. Now I look around at the people here and ask, why not? There are superb people here who have much, often

Fellows were encouraged to enroll as special students at MIT. "Everybody took the MIT undergraduate microbiology course taught by Nobel Laureate Salvador Luria. You had to maintain a B grade to take courses as a special student," he says. Many of Keusch's fellowship colleagues dropped out after the first semester, not wanting to compete with the undergraduates—"so it left a lot of tuition support for me at MIT," Keusch laughs.

Another nudge along the path toward international work was a public health course Keusch later took with Nevin Scrimshaw,

diseases), staying until he left for NIH in 1998.

Heading the Fogarty International Center, which promotes scientific research and training internationally, certainly brought Keusch into even greater contact with the problems of developing countries. Before, he had been a scientist interested in developing solutions for somebody else to apply, but at NIH, "I began to think in terms of public health," he says. "It really broadened my perspective enormously. But I'm still an absolute believer in the need to use science to address public health problems. It's just that we need to alter the

“Global health should be seen in the context of globalization, as economies are linked, as people move across borders.” —Gerald Keusch



head of the MIT department of nutrition. "He was a proponent of the idea that malnutrition affected your immune system and made you more susceptible to infection," Keusch says. "He had spent seventeen years in Guatemala as founding director of the Institute of Nutrition, and he was going back to teach a course on public health nutrition." Keusch joined him, and it was a formative experience.

"I went to Guatemala to learn about public health nutrition and nutrition-infection interactions, but there was an epidemic of bacillary dysentery—also known as shigellosis—with 15 to 20 percent mortality rates," he says. Keusch went out to the field and saw cases with the investigative teams. "I had been working on a cholera toxin in the laboratory [in Boston], trying to figure out how it works, so it was not rocket science to ask if *Shigella* also made a toxin," he says. In 1969 he was the first to show that the dysentery bacillus makes a toxin that causes both watery diarrhea and inflammation of the intestine, as does shigellosis.

With that experience in Guatemala, he says, "I began to think about this theme of nutrition affecting susceptibility through its effects on the immune system," and it became one of the strands of his research. He returned to Tufts in 1979 as chief of the division of geographic medicine (and later infectious

academic paradigm from 'publish or perish' to 'publish and apply the knowledge or perish.' During my five years at NIH, I was trying very hard to support the training of people in developing countries to work along that spectrum of basic to applied research, to create collaborations, and to do it in innovative ways that engage the social sciences together with the biomedical sciences."

Federal funding for international health initiatives more than doubled during Keusch's tenure at Fogarty, probably in no small part due to his ability to sell international health to a Congress whose first concern was, "What's in it for us?"

Now that he's at BU, Keusch talks about "the evolution of an agenda." One aspect, for example, is teaching more widely about the globalization of health and disease. "People have to be aware of the world in which we live. It means you focus on disparities, but you focus on commonalities as well." For instance, Keusch wants BUSPH to offer an undergraduate course focusing on international public health, and to contribute to a public health journalism course at the College of Communication.

"I think there's a real need to integrate disciplinary thinking," Keusch says. "The future in biology and health and science really lies with lowering some of the disciplinary boundaries. That's where science ought to be going, integrative instead of reductionist. Public health is a great way to lead that kind of an effort."

A Fond Farewell

Barbara St. Onge Retires After Two Decades of Dedicated Service



Barbara St. Onge, who recently retired, was dedicated to serving students.

After serving as the director of admissions and alumni relations for twenty-three years, Barbara St. Onge has retired from BUSPH.

In her dual roles, Barbara had direct and personal contact with every student—from the first phone call or visit to the School through graduation and after. She is known particularly for the warmth and sincere interest she showed in each prospective student, as well as the enthusiasm she demonstrated when alumni returned to visit and share news of their lives.

Barbara made certain that applicants knew as much as possible about the School. She spent many hours arranging for visitors to attend classes, speak with faculty, and become well acquainted with the School's programs. She also helped countless graduates find jobs in public health over the years, the result of the personal connections she had forged between students and alumni. She knew many students so well she could recite what they had studied, what their interests were, and where they were working at any given time.

In addition to her unflagging commitment to students, Barbara is renowned for her quirky wit, her distinctive sense of fashion, and her tireless work ethic. All of these qualities were praised at a celebration at the School last August, which honored her service and gave students, faculty, staff, and alumni the opportunity to wish her the fondest of farewells.

make a connection

Practice Office Seeks Help from Alumni

They design culturally relevant programs to address the health needs of refugees. They raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding. They evaluate the latest advancements in emergency preparedness as it relates to the threat of bioterrorism.

And they haven't even graduated.

Today's M.P.H. students at the School of Public Health are required to fulfill a field practicum in a relevant organization or agency. Field placements allow students to apply classroom lessons to real-world problems—and find solutions to them—while they gain practical skills and professional confidence.

But our students need the help of alumni to succeed. We are always on the lookout for satisfying field placements. If you know of an important project that could benefit from the expertise of a BUSPH student, let us know!

Please contact Scott Harris in the Practice Office at scotth@bu.edu to learn more about the practicum requirement and to offer suggestions for possible placements.

And thanks!



A Closer Look at

A Conversation With George Annas

George Annas is Edward R. Utey Professor and chairman of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights at BUSPH. He also is professor of sociomedical sciences and community medicine at Boston University School of Medicine and professor of law at BU's School of Law. His areas of scholarly work include patient rights, genetics, health care regulation, human experimentation, health law, human rights, and science and technology. He is the author of *The Rights of Patients*, now in its third edition, widely considered to be the definitive guide to understanding the legal and ethical issues faced by patients in a complex and frequently overwhelming health care system. He spoke about cloning with the *Health Sphere* staff.

Q. It seems that in the past three years there have been several announcements that a human being has been cloned. Why is the recent announcement that South Korean researchers cloned human embryos different?

A. The main difference is that their results were published in a reputable scientific journal, *Science*, and thus are likely to be more than simply a publicity stunt.

Q. What exactly did the South Koreans do?

A. They succeeded in creating a human embryo the same way in which Dolly the sheep was created, i.e., by somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). That involves producing an embryo by fertilizing an enucleated egg (an egg whose nucleus has been removed) with a somatic cell derived from the material surrounding the egg (cumulus cells), and growing this embryo to the blastocyst stage—a very early stage, but one at which stem cells can actually be obtained by destroying the embryo. The South Korean team did two

things that had not been done before: first, they grew a human embryo created by SCNT to the blastocyst stage; second, they derived pluripotent stem cells (which have the ability to develop into many different cell types) from it.

Q. Will this lead to a duplicate human child?

A. That's the question—actually, the second question. The first question is, should this type of research be done at all? This is one type of cloning: creating human embryos to make stem cells—it's been called "research cloning" and inaccurately called "therapeutic cloning" (no therapies are available or will be anytime soon). The goal of the research is to be able to use an individual's own genetic material to create embryos and grow stem cells from them that can develop into whatever tissue the individual needs (e.g., pancreas, liver, heart, etc.). Of course, whether we will ever be able to control the development of the cells in a predictable way remains to be demonstrated.

Most people who object to pursuing this research believe that the human embryo has a high moral value, so high that it is wrong to create one just to destroy it in research, even very important research. Others note that, even if successful, cloning to produce stem cells for therapy will require a tremendous number of human eggs, which cannot be obtained without putting women at risk. They would defer the research until embryonic stem cells could be derived without the need for human eggs.

Another argument against research

cloning is that it is the first (and necessary) step toward reproductive cloning, and once you make human embryos this way, it is inevitable that at least some of them will be implanted in a woman to attempt to bring them to term. So, the argument goes, if you really want to prevent reproductive cloning, you must prevent research cloning as well.

Cloning



Q. Do you buy the argument that to prevent cloning a baby you must outlaw research cloning as well?

A. No, we can permit cloning to make “medicine” without permitting cloning to make babies. But this is not trivial regulation—it will be difficult and controversial. It would require at least a new federal oversight body that would have the legal authority to approve and supervise any research cloning experiment, separate the experimenters from any involvement with an IVF clinic or infertility

specialist, prohibit the freezing of cloned embryos (so they could not be stored or transported but would have to be used immediately to obtain stem cells), and prohibit commerce in embryos—and, I think, prohibit the purchase and sale of human eggs as well. Rules such as these, of course, would have to be in place in every country in which research cloning was done.

Q. How realistic is this?

A. Well, the truth is that if we can’t regulate research cloning in the United States, there is no real likelihood that reproductive cloning can be prevented. And so far the Bush administration has taken the position that we must ban both research and reproductive cloning, or ban neither. That, of course, is a prescription for inevitable reproductive cloning. The administration also pursued this “ban-ban” strategy at the United Nations, and effectively, I believe, succeeded in torpedoing a United Nations-sponsored international treaty to ban reproductive cloning. That treaty is now effectively dead, although the United States could single-handedly resuscitate it if it dropped its “ban-ban” demand and supported a more reasonable two-step process: ban reproductive cloning by treaty and simultaneously support domestic legislation throughout the world to either ban or regulate research cloning.

Q. What do you think will happen?

A. All mainstream scientists and their professional organizations oppose reproductive cloning because it is dangerous to the genetically engineered child who could result and also because it undercuts human dignity by treating that child as a commodity, as something that has been made to an exact genetic specification, more like a pet or a farm animal. Only a handful of zealots, on what can be kindly characterized as the lunatic fringe, think that human reproductive cloning should even be attempted. Nonetheless, unless the United States abandons its extreme positions on embryo research (which is, of course, directly related to the administration’s extreme position on abortion), we will lose any ability to provide international leadership on this issue, with the inevitable result that dangerous and irresponsible attempts to implant a cloned embryo will be attempted—and soon. ■

Training New Leaders in Public Health

By Cynthia K. Buccini

Four months ago, Gene Declercq, assistant dean for doctoral education, was grappling with the kind of problem most administrators wouldn't mind having: he had twice as many applicants as he'd expected for the School's new Doctor of Public Health program, which will begin in September. Declercq, who's responsible for the program's development and oversight, was poring over fifty applications for about ten slots. "It's one of those good problems," he says.

The interdisciplinary program will prepare experienced public health professionals for leadership positions in their fields. Students will receive advanced training to assess and analyze public health problems so they can develop, implement, and evaluate programs and policies. "More and more people in public health want to have greater training in management and administration, and there aren't many venues for that," says Declercq.

The School already offers doctoral programs in epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics, and health services. Students in the new Dr.P.H. program will concentrate in one of three other departments: international health, maternal and child health, or social and behavioral sciences. "This is an ideal blend," says Declercq. "In all three departments, there is a strong emphasis on developing practice and research skills."

Research will be a substantial component of the new program. "That's because a high-level manager in public health has to be able to read and assimilate research results and know when they're valid and when they're not," he says. "But what they also want to know is how to raise the funds necessary to keep programs going or expanding and how to deal with policymakers and the media. This program is aimed at helping them develop all those skills."

Students will complete courses on social and cultural factors affecting the health of populations; health program development,



management, and finance; program and policy evaluation; and research methodologies for public health, among others. They also must complete eight credits of specialized courses in their concentrations and write a practice-based dissertation. Declercq, who chairs the committee that's developing the curriculum, says the work has been rewarding because the group is creating courses that will best serve the needs of students. "That's a challenge," he says. "But it also creates a lot of excitement."

The students who applied for admission in the fall hailed from ten countries and a dozen states in the U.S., and they had a range of experience. About half had M.P.H. degrees; others had master's degrees in social work or health administration, according to Declercq, who says he was pleased with the caliber of the applicants. "They're largely motivated by a desire most public health folks have," he says. "They want to enhance their skills in order to bring services to a larger number of people more effectively.... These applicants are wonderful to talk to. It's refreshing to find

Gene Declercq, assistant dean for doctoral education, is responsible for developing and overseeing the new Doctor of Public Health program.

people who are so committed to improving the health of populations.”

Students entering this program are mid-level professionals, Declercq says. “They’ve been managing community public health programs or developing or coordinating programs for NGOs in developing countries, and they want to advance to leadership positions in state, national, or international organizations.”

Significant public health experience is required for good reason, he says. “This is

“These applicants are wonderful to talk to. It’s refreshing to find people who are so committed to improving the health of populations.”

not a degree meant for someone who received an M.P.H. at twenty-three and at twenty-four wants a doctorate, because it is important they bring a core of public health practice experience that they can integrate with the class material. We’ll learn a great deal from them, and they’ll be a great resource for one another.”

Dean Robert Meenan says BUSPH has long been focused on the M.P.H. “We wanted to increase our doctoral offerings because doing so strengthens the School’s research programs and raises the content level of its master’s programs.” And, he says, there is continued demand from BUSPH alumni for practice-oriented degrees. “We’ve continued to offer a flexible education so students can get their degrees while they’re working.”

Meenan says he wants graduates of the new program to bring “a higher level of doctoral training to their jobs.” Those jobs include heading city and state health departments or working for not-for-profit groups, nongovernmental organizations, for-profit hospitals or insurance companies, or federal agencies like the Centers for Disease Control. He says, “I want them to go where they will make a difference.”

To Gene Declercq, BUSPH’s assistant dean for doctoral education, teaching is “both terrifying and rewarding: I’ve been doing this for twenty years, and I still sweat bullets before I go into class.”

He combats that feeling by meticulously preparing for each class. “Everybody in my department knows that on the days I teach, I’m best left alone,” says Declercq, a professor of maternal and child health and recipient of the 2003 Norman A. Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching, which was established in honor of BUSPH’s founding dean. “I’m going over material to make sure I have it down so that by the time I get to class, I don’t have to think about content as much as focusing on the extent to which students are engaged in the learning process.”

His teaching philosophy extends to hiring faculty. Declercq wants teachers who, at the end of the class, can sense whether students understood the material. “As a teacher, it’s not just about how bright you are,” he says. “It’s about what your students learn. As long as students are interested in learning—and public health students are—it’s our responsibility to find a way to reach them.”

Declercq, who has a master’s and a Ph.D. in political science from Florida State University, has taught at George Washington University and Merrimack College. His focus turned to childbirth-related issues when he and his wife were taking Lamaze classes. “I thought it was the coolest teaching I’d ever seen,” he says. “It’s so interactive. People are exceptionally engaged and interested. You have an immediate impact on their lives. I thought this would be an interesting setting to teach in.” Once he became certified as a childbirth educator, his assessment proved accurate. “I was right. I loved teaching those classes and working with those couples.”

Declercq developed an interest in maternal and infant health policy and began doing research on issues related to midwifery. That led him to BU, which launched its midwifery program in 1991. He began as an adjunct professor and became full-time in 1996—the first non-midwife hired in the department. His research over the years includes comparisons of maternity care systems among industrialized nations and a national survey of childbearing experiences. He’s also published several studies on turn-of-the-century maternity care in Massachusetts. These days, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, Declercq is overseeing the development of the School’s Doctor of Public Health program (see main article), scheduled to begin in September.

“I think this is the best teaching setting one can be in,” Declercq says of BUSPH. “We’re working with dedicated, intelligent students who want to learn. You can push them very hard, but they accept it because they want to make other people’s lives better.” —CKB

Lois Nunez and Arthur Culbert advise Sargent sophomores who are interested in applying to the Sargent College and BUSPH five-year joint degree program.



Expanding Horizons

New Programs Introduce Undergraduates to Public Health

By the *Health Sphere* Staff

The School of Public Health was established in 1979 to provide a master's-level education to professionals in the field. Over time, the School began offering doctoral degrees as well and continues to broaden the scope of its educational, research, and service programs.

Today, increasing numbers of undergraduates are also expressing interest in public health, especially as awareness about opportunities within the health professions has grown and new challenges in both health care and public health continue to emerge.

The success of an undergraduate course, Introduction to Public Health, led by BUSPH Associate Dean for Admissions Arthur Culbert and taught by a team of SPH faculty, attests to undergraduates' interest in public health. Enrollment increased dramatically, from thirty-eight students in its first year in 2002 to sixty-eight in its second. Given the enthusi-

asm of the undergraduates, the logical next step has been to create a minor at the undergraduate level in the College of Arts and Sciences. The largest undergraduate college in the University, CAS has more than 7,000 full-time students.

Lisa Sullivan, SPH's assistant dean for undergraduate education in public health, is delighted that CAS faculty and students have enthusiastically embraced the option of a minor in public health. "Public health is an incredibly vital and diverse field," she says. "Undergraduates want to be involved because they so clearly want to make a contribution to the welfare of others and to the world."

Students in the new undergraduate program gain a sense of the rigors and rewards of public health through three required classes: biostatistics, epidemiology, and Introduction to Public Health. Electives offer additional exposure to the discipline and

its practical applications. Sullivan looks forward to working further with her CAS counterparts. "Members of the CAS faculty have been extremely helpful in establishing this minor," she says. "It has been a great working relationship; every step of the way has been a very positive team effort." In fact, the College of Arts and Sciences' academic policy committee and faculty have voted unanimously to approve the new minor.

Sullivan has also been meeting with candidates. "I can't tell you how many students have come to my office to discuss the program," she says. "I think that it's going to be a very popular minor."

New Partnership with Sargent

The minor isn't the only opportunity for undergraduate education in public health at BU. The School of Public Health and Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences have developed a five-year B.S./M.P.H. program, in which Sargent students will work toward their Master of Public Health degrees while completing their undergraduate requirements.

Students at Sargent possess a solid understanding and informed appreciation of health-related issues from their educational and practical experiences at the College. In addition, their demonstrated achievements, including impressive board scores and consistently high grade point averages, make Sargent undergraduates strong candidates for successful graduate study at SPH.

public health itself. "Public health has traditionally attracted lawyers and physicians and nurses and social workers," says Lois Nunez, associate dean for academic affairs at Sargent and a 1981 graduate of SPH. "I think public health could benefit from exposure to fields such as speech pathology, occupational therapy, and nutrition. We're expanding the expertise of public health workers into areas where there's not a lot of representation right now."



Lisa Sullivan is developing new programs that introduce undergraduates to public health.

“Undergraduates want to be involved because they so clearly want to make a contribution to the welfare of others and to the world.”

—Lisa Sullivan

Undergraduates will apply to the dual degree program during their sophomore year. Once accepted, they will take sixteen credits in core classes at the School of Public Health during their junior and senior years, which will count for credit toward their undergraduate major as well as toward the M.P.H.

One of the greatest benefits expected to emerge from this initiative is that Sargent students will gain a broader perspective at SPH, which in turn will enrich the field of

SPH Dean Robert Meenan believes the program represents a landmark development for undergraduate education in public health. "The close collaboration between the School of Public Health and Sargent College will ensure that students make good, thoughtful decisions that will be in their best interest and ultimately help in their professional lives," he says. "We are quite pleased to have forged this connection with Sargent."



Jennifer Kasper ('99) with Maternal and Child Health Chairman Milt Kotelchuck, her former research advisor. ▲

BUSPH Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Leonard Glantz and Gallery Carla owner Carla Schmidt (CGS'69). (Paintings, *Still Life With Camera*, left, and *Beautiful Day*, by Liu Gaofeng.) ▼



Alums Enjoy Fine Conversation and Fine Art

Ninety alumni and their guests enjoyed more than food and drink at BUSPH's social hour during the American Public Health Association convention in San Francisco last November. They also appreciated fine works of art at Gallery Carla, which owner Carla Schmidt (CGS'69) graciously offered for the event.



Osa Osayimwen ('04), far left, with students Maria Ciampi and Oleyinka Akinola. ▲

Assistant Dean for Doctoral Education Gene Declercq with, from left, Anna Gutzler ('03), student Jane Lazar, Jennifer Rogers ('03), and Alice Richman ('03). ►



Photographs: M. Christine Torrington Photography

A Commitment to Helping African Women

Living in Nigeria in the 1970s, Laura Armstrong ('81) met people "who opened their homes and lives" to her. Now Armstrong wants to

repay their kindness with a bequest to endow a scholarship for African women who want to study public health.

Armstrong says her experiences in Wari and Lagos changed her life. She encountered people who had little education and who "did not know much of the outside world and its possibilities." And yet, she says, "in particular, the women of Africa inspired me. They lived hard lives and had limited opportunities due to the constant burdens of pregnancy, child-bearing, and the care of children."

Armstrong has sponsored a girl in Mali for the last four years. "I have come to know her and her family through our struggle to keep her in school," she says. "She is now in the seventh level of school in a neighboring village, and, with encouragement, will continue her education. I want to establish this bequest so that girls like Korotoum will have better opportunities."

For more information about how estate planning could benefit you and the School of Public Health, please contact Elizabeth M. Ollen, director of institutional development and alumni relations, at 617-638-4290 or at ollen@bu.edu.



::class notes

::ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Steve Johnson ('84) received the Distinguished Alumni Award from BUSPH Dean Robert Meenan in October 2003. Steve serves as chief of the Section Management Sector at the Woburn, Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection.

Ike Eriator ('91) directs the pain management program and is associate professor of anesthesiology at the University of Mississippi's School of Medicine.

Jonathan Rutchik ('97) lives in California, where he is a neurologist focusing on environmental and occupational medicine.

Muka Chikuba ('98), along with other local alumni, participated in BUSPH's reaccreditation process last fall. Muka had just returned from Africa, where she was working on various HIV/AIDS programs. She is a project director with John Snow, Inc., in Boston.

Ali Noorani ('99) recently became director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Council in Boston.

Michelle Shuman ('00, CAS'96) is manager of clinical data management for Boston Scientific's neurovascular and electrophysiology divisions in California. "Since our HQ is in Natick, I get to enjoy trips to Boston every now and then," she says.

::EPIDEMIOLOGY/ BIOSTATISTICS

Linda Cottler ('80) is a professor of epidemiology in psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine. She recently returned from an extended trip around the globe, beginning in Sydney, Australia, where she started an NIDA-funded club-drug study, also being conducted in St. Louis and Miami. After a brief stopover in Hong Kong for some "excellent shopping," she visited Taiwan, where she consulted with the director general of the National Bureau of Con-

trolled Drugs. Linda then traveled to Bangalore, India, where she is the co-director of a Fogarty international training grant, collaborating with investigators from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences.

Bruce McCarthy ('90) was appointed chief medical officer of Allina Medical Clinic, a multispecialty practice, which has forty-two locations throughout Minnesota. Bruce was recruited from the Henry Ford Medical Group in Detroit, where he was regional medical director.

Adrienne Ettinger ('91, CAS'88) graduated from Harvard School of Public Health with an Sc.D. in environmental health and has

accepted a position as assistant professor of health policy and management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She will work with the CDC-funded Hopkins Center of Excellence for Environmental Public Health Tracking, "which builds on my previous experience at the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health."

Kathleen Mortimer ('92) lives in San Francisco, where she works as director of the Fresno Asthma Society. She and her husband have two sons, Alex and Kyle.

Jeffrey Samet ('92), chief of general internal medicine at Boston Medical Center, and Nick Horton, former member of BUSPH's

From the President of the BUSPH Alumni Board

Julie Ross ('00)



I hope that you are enjoying the inaugural issue of *Health Sphere*, the magazine for alumni and friends of Boston University School of Public Health.

This has been a busy year at the School. In August 2003 we bid a fond farewell to Barbara St. Onge, longtime director of admissions and alumni relations (see page 5). Upon Barbara's retirement, a new full-time alumni officer, Anne Lefaivre, joined us. Anne has enthusiastically taken over her duties with the Alumni Association, the Alumni Board, and alumni-related events.

Other changes at BUSPH include the highly anticipated redesign of the School's Web site, which is managed by Kate Gannon ('99). Another method of communication was expanded by Boston University in February 2004: the Alumni Link. Featuring e-mail forwarding for life, the Alumni Link enables you to keep in touch with friends, classmates, and colleagues at the touch of a button. Check out the link at <http://alumni.bu.edu>.

The Alumni Board also has experienced change. New members have joined the ranks, and we have created two committees—membership and events—that allow us to channel our efforts and be even more productive.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about how we can develop additional alumni programming, please don't hesitate to contact me at Julie_Ross@Childrens.Harvard.edu or Anne at 617-414-1401 or sphalum@bu.edu. We'd love to hear from you. Happy summer!

Public Health and Public Land



Michael Suk's newest role combines public health, law, and medicine.

Michael Suk ('95) has made a career of pursuing more than one career path at a time. The New Jersey native, who holds advanced degrees in medicine and law, says that the Master of Public Health he earned at BUSPH is "the bridge that unites" his varied interests.

His awareness of the field was heightened in 1990 when he organized a symposium on Americans without health coverage. "I was convinced there was a better way and set on the path to learn as much as I could in order to contribute to the debate," he recalls. "It was then that I decided to pursue a law degree and a Master of Public Health simultaneously with my medical degree."

Having fulfilled his premed requirements at Carleton College, where he was that institution's first student to graduate with a degree in African-American history, Michael completed his medical degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine while earning a J.D./M.P.H. in health care law at Boston University's Schools of Law and Public Health. He did his resident training in orthopedic surgery at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in the Bronx, New York.

His studies at BUSPH, particularly in medical ethics and constitutional health law, added breadth to his experiences as an attorney and as a physician, he says. He especially appreciates his classes in the health services field and courses with George Annas, the Edward R. Utley Professor and chairman of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights, who "has a piercing mind and can articulate difficult constitutional positions with clarity."

Michael's newest role combines the realms of public health, law, and medicine at the federal level. In September 2003, President George W. Bush appointed him one of twelve White House Fellows. In his role as a special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton, he is spearheading the development of a link between public health and recreation. He is chairman of a working group, comprising members of the departments of interior, transportation, health and human services, and agriculture, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, which is charged with attracting national attention to the role of public land in public health. After his one-year fellowship, he'll become assistant professor of orthopedic trauma surgery at the University of Florida's Shands Medical Center in Jacksonville, where he will help to establish the orthopedic trauma service.

Above all, he hopes to make public health resonate with individuals. "So much attention is paid to system-wide problems, epidemics, and academic debate," he says, "that the average American does not understand what someone involved in the field of public health does." With his wide-ranging knowledge and experience, Michael is well prepared to ensure that they do.

Department of Biostatistics, are co-authors of a study on alcohol and HIV that appeared in Boston Medical Center's *MedCenter News*.

Shaheen Islam ('93) has completed the second year of his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care at the Lahey Clinic. His article on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease was published in the May 2003 issue of *ADVANCE for Managers of Respiratory Care*. Shaheen has also been approved by the IRB to begin a clinical trial comparing manual aspiration with tube thoracostomy and iatrogenic pneumothorax, which will require the recruitment of thirty-five patients in each group.

Anne Skalicky ('93) has moved to South Africa to begin work as a field coordinator for an AIDS orphan study led by the University of Natal in conjunction with the BUSPH Center for International Health. Anne writes, "We will be living in Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal. This area of South Africa is home to the Drakensberg gorges, historic Zulu and Boer War battlefields, big game parks, mountain vistas—just three to four hours from Johannesburg and Durban." Anne will train and supervise the Health Economics and AIDS Research Division in collecting longitudinal household survey data on a cohort of 500 orphaned and non-orphaned children over three years. Anne's husband, Fernando, and their son, Pablo, will make the move as well.

Kimberly Birdsall ('95) joined the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services as a research scientist in spring of 2003 and works as part of the bioterrorism preparedness planning team. She is married and has twin boys.

Cathy Taylor ('96, SSW'93) graduated in June 2003 from the UCLA School of Public Health with a Ph.D. from its Department of Community Health Sciences and a minor in film and television. Her dissertation was on "Social Norms and Intimate Partner Violence: An Examination of News and Public Views." She writes, >

::class notes

"I am happy to be back on the East Coast and doing a postdoc in child abuse prevention research at Columbia."

Avram Aelony ('97) moved to Los Angeles in August 2003 to be closer to family. "I won't miss the frigid winters!"

Michelle Mancuso ('98) writes guidelines that cover the care of patients who have chronic diseases, at Kaiser Permanente Care Management Institute in San Francisco. She and **Maura Hanlon ('01)** helped found a nonprofit group, TriOne, which holds triathlons to benefit ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease) organizations. Michelle and Maura planned and held their first triathlon in 2003 and are preparing for a second.

Bob McLean ('98), a doctoral student in epidemiology at BUSPH, received the President's Book Award for the highest scored abstract submission from a graduate student. His abstract is on the relationship between homocysteine and hip

fracture, using data from the Framingham Osteoporosis Study.

Fiona Galloway ('00) is based in Atlanta and works in the International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch at the CDC, where she is in charge of training programs. Fiona returned from Katmandu to assist in the training of UNICEF field workers. She can be reached at Fgalloway@cdc.gov.

Rhys Williams ('00) has been promoted to group director of Global Epidemiology and Outcomes Research-Europe with Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Marcio Maeda ('01) is the clinical trials office supervisor for the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. The office serves oncology research at Boston-area institutions.

Sara McLaughlin ('01) is a Ph.D. student in the health behavior and health education program at the University of Michigan. She notes, "My M.P.H. from BU prepared

me well for doctoral studies. Kudos to BU!"

Elizabeth Traphagen ('01) and her husband, Edward Vamenta, welcomed their first child, Adeline Mae, in June 2002. Elizabeth reports her daughter "is a joy."

Tracy Brumley Powell ('02) serves in the Peace Corps in Lesotho.

::HEALTH LAW

Lisa Kodmur ('94) works with the Hebrew Union College/Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health collaborative in Los Angeles, addressing quality of life as a basis for health care ethics decision making.

Lorraine Jones ('96, LAW'96) and her husband, **Dan Hartman ('93)**, have moved to Alaska. Dan has finished his family practice residency at the University of California at San Francisco and is a physician with a tribal consortium that provides health care services to the

New Alumni Officer for BUSPH

Anne Lefavre is the new alumni officer for the Office of Institutional Development and Alumni Relations. Her responsibilities include working on programs and initiatives with BUSPH alumni and members of the School's Alumni Board. In addition, she organizes and oversees all alumni events, maintains the alumni database, and works closely with alumni volunteers. She and her colleagues also have recently embarked on a number of visits to meet with alumni locally and nationally.

Anne comes to the School of Public Health from Episcopal High School in Jacksonville, Florida, where she was communications and events coordinator for the capital campaign and worked with alumni. Before that, she was a development assistant at Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and assistant director of alumnae relations at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and elementary education.

Anne is looking forward to hearing from alumni and encourages them to contact her with news and suggestions for alumni activities at 617-414-1401, sphalum@bu.edu, or 715 Albany Street, T517 East, Boston, Massachusetts 02118.



Alumni Officer Anne Lefavre

Yup'ik Eskimos of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta in western Alaska. "Dan's job is really busy and rewarding," reports Lorraine. "I brought my job with me as a staff attorney with the National Health Law Program and am telecommuting as the program director of the Health Consumer Alliance (HCA)." HCA assists low-income Californians in obtaining health insurance and represents residents in disputes over care. Dan and Lorraine are enjoying their son, Rowan. "We're going through all the great changes of being a new family together."

Jennifer Kasper ('99, CAS'91, MED'91) is president of Doctors for Global Health, an organization that performs health and human rights work overseas.

Jennifer Liebrich ('99) has been promoted to director of environmental health programs at the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

Christine Fitzgerald ('02) and her husband, Matthew, welcomed their son, John, in February 2003. In January 2003, Chris was named the Institutional Review Board coordinator at the Providence VA Medical Center in Rhode Island.

Andrea Cianfarini ('03) lives in San Francisco and is a program manager at Blue Cross of California.

::HEALTH SERVICES

Eloise Beechinor ('79) lives in San Francisco, where she works for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Marge Reiter-Levine ('84) has joined the Maricopa County, Arizona, department of public health. "After many years in hospital administration, I am back in public health and heading the team to open health clinics in several new jails." Marge also attained fellow status in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and serves on several state and national boards for ACHE. Marge sings with the Phoenix Symphony Chorus

and enjoys being a mother to her daughter, Emily.

Mahamane Maiga ('88) has served as minister of defense for the Republic of Mali since June 2002. He is a former professor of international medicine and nephrology at the University of Mali.

Sister Barbara Brilliant ('90), dean of the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences at St. Teresa's Convent in Monrovia, Liberia, addressed the United Nations on February 5, 2004, on the humanitarian crisis in Liberia. She had refused evacuation during the civil war in order to direct the distribution of food relief and emergency supplies to the poor.

Susan Graham ('90) is a fellow in infectious diseases at the University of Washington and can be reached at graha00@earthlink.net. Susan spent time in the winter of 2003 in Botswana, where she field-tested a microchip for lower-cost CD4 count testing in HIV-infected patients. She reports the device "worked very well and hopefully will go on the market within the year." While in Botswana, Susan met with **Pinkie Kgabi ('91)**. They hope to reconnect with fellow classmates from the 1990 Summer Certificate Program. Pinkie is director of National Archives and Records Services in Gaborone, Botswana. She can be reached at kkgabi@gov.bw.

Zulkifli Hakim ('91) is chief medical officer for PetroChina International, which is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Jody Bangs ('93) graduated from the New England School of Acupuncture in January 2003. She was licensed that June and began her private practice in acupuncture and herbal medicine. Jody has been interning at Pathways to Complementary Medicine, a public health clinic in Boston.

Ginny Ehrlich ('93) lives in Portland, Oregon, where she is the director of school health programs for the state's department of education.

Pierre LaPlante ('94) has been asked by the United Arab Emirates to act as senior nurse clinical coordinator, leading five teams of ex-pats in establishing a home care program for the region of Al Ain. Pierre reports that this is a new program for the region and for much of the Muslim world, and adds, "This will max out my M.P.H. training as well as my new M.H.Sc. in bioethics," which he earned from the University of Toronto.

Wil Johnson ('97) is pursuing his doctorate in public health in behavioral and community health sciences at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health. He has completed his course work and preliminary and comprehensive exams and is working full-time on his dissertation, which examines the health-promoting behaviors of minority adolescents. In the fall of 2002, Wil enjoyed his first teaching experience as an adjunct professor at Carlow College in Pittsburgh. He taught a required research methods course in the school's division of nursing.

Rachel Christensen Sethi ('97) lives in Virginia and is a research analyst at the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

Rachel Wilson ('97) is the director of women's health policy and advocacy at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. She recently wrote an article on disease rates in Massachusetts prisons that was well received across the Commonwealth.

Diane Rita O'Connell ('98) and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their third child, son Quinlan, in September 2003. Quinlan joins brother Logan and sister Megan.

Jennifer Taylor ('99) left her position at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and will pursue her Ph.D. at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Health Policy and Management Department. Her research will focus on injury and patient safety. >

::class notes

Allison Schultz Sherwat ('00) was married in September 2001. She worked for three years at Massachusetts General Hospital in operations improvement and has now moved over to a business development unit in Partners HealthCare corporate.

Amy Conner Chessler ('01) is living in Boston after spending a year in New York City. She works at Digene Corporation with managed care organizations and women's health advocacy groups "to ensure that women have access to our FDA-approved HPV test for cervical cancer screening."

Neenah Estrella-Luna ('01) is director of health and environment at the Learning Project in Newark, Delaware.

Silas Patel ('01) has moved to New York City and is senior financial analyst with a new health plan called Healthfirst.

::INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

Vanessa White ('96) is a scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Mid-Atlantic Health Leadership Institute. She continues her work with the Montgomery County Public Health Department three days a week in women's health and two days a week in emergency preparedness. "I am still loving life in D.C.," she reports.

Phillip Smith ('98) has been transferred from Chad to Bangladesh, where he is technical officer-epidemiology, in charge of operations. He writes, "Unlike in Sudan and Chad, the Bangladesh WHO EPI team is fairly large and consists of two international staff, fifty-three national doctors, sixty immunization specialists, and seventy-plus support staff." Phillip's team works in three major areas: accelerated disease control, immunization service strengthening, and new and unsterilized vaccines.

Vivienne Tjapepua ('98) has been working in Namibia as a national project officer on a project encompassing maternal health,

integrated child health, and adolescent-friendly health services and supported by the World University Service of Canada. The project aims to prevent adolescent HIV/AIDS.

Mayumi Onishi ('99) has begun work in Nigeria and is in charge of the U.S.-Japan global partnership for project formation in public health.

Talya Ruch ('00) has moved back to Boston. She is an associate manager at Biogen, where she manages MS patient education programs nationwide.

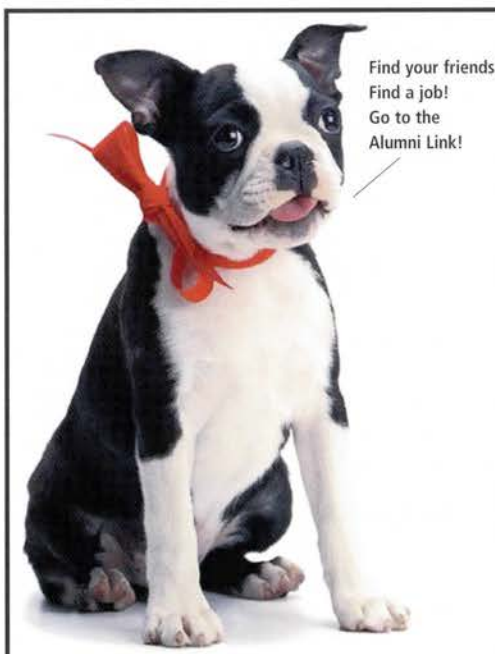
Patrick Connelly ('01) presented at an HIV/AIDS and business workshop in Durban, South Africa, in June 2003. According to Patrick's research, small- and medium-sized companies are not using HIV/AIDS services to the extent that large companies are. According to the HIV/AIDS service providers surveyed, only 30 percent of their clients were small- to medium-sized companies.

Marjan Faraidooni ('01, SAR'99) is working in Dubai on a project called Dubai Healthcare City, which provides health care for residents of the region. There

are also plans to establish a university medical center that will include a much-needed research facility. Marjan writes that she has been involved with the project from its inception. "My role has been primarily as a research analyst and has now evolved into quality monitoring and assessment. Needless to say, it has been challenging, but I have also learned a lot." She adds, "I owe a lot of what I have achieved to BU."

Gabit Ismailov ('01) and his wife, Nastya, met on a mission in Uzbekistan on December 1, 2001, were engaged by December 7, and married on March 7, 2002. Their first child, son Alex, was born in April 2003. "It is too good to be true, but life is so fine," says Gabit. He extended his mission, setting up a new hospital treating patients with multidrug-resistant TB.

Rovshan Ismailov ('01) is a Ph.D. student in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Epidemiology. He also works for the university's Center for Injury Research and Control. His dissertation will focus on cardiovascular trauma. Rovshan made several presentations throughout 2003,



Announcing the
new, improved,
easy-to-use
Alumni Link
(<http://alumni.bu.edu>)
available to all
Boston University
alumni.



Finding Role Models at BUSPH



Walker Armfield ('00) focuses on public health and mental health reform in the North Carolina governor's office.

As an English major at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Walker Armfield ('00) knew little about public health. But after a year in VISTA/AmeriCorps, volunteering at a battered women's shelter in rural Louisiana, she says, "I decided I wanted to find a profession that would allow me to help people."

She considered law school, but decided against it after working as a paralegal. She took a job in development and special events at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where she met many public health professionals. She was impressed, and in 1998 she entered BU's School of Public Health. "I worked for six years before going to graduate school," she says. "My work experience prepared me more than anything, in terms of knowing what I want-

ed to do, what I was good at, and how I could best contribute to improving people's health."

Walker chose BUSPH's maternal and child health concentration, not just because the School had a good reputation nationally and among her colleagues in New York. "What really attracted me," she recalls, "was the impressive work being done by the faculty of that department."

Studying with Assistant Professor Jo-Anna Rorie, then-Associate Professor Lisa Paine, and Assistant Professor Lois McCloskey, Walker found role models who worked closely with her. The Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education Program, which combines intense course work with group discussion, helped her develop as a future public health professional and leader, she says.

After receiving an M.P.H. in 2000, Walker became a senior manager at the Boston Public Health Commission. She also maintained a steady and engaging presence on BU's Medical Campus, meeting with faculty and staff, as well as assisting the Department of Maternal and Child Health with its concentrator meetings and student advising. In addition, she was an enthusiastic two-term member of BUSPH's Alumni Board and served on the board's events committee.

In February Walker returned to her native North Carolina to work as one of five policy advisors for Governor Michael Easley. She focuses on traditional public health and mental health reform, as well as housing and homelessness. She also helps develop new policies by working with the cabinet secretary and the senior staff of various state agencies.

The work is rewarding. "I enjoy being part of the discussion to find solutions to problems in public health and the factors that contribute to poor health outcomes," Walker says. "I enjoy learning about the issues, studying the data, talking to professionals who are doing direct service with the population, and then trying to figure out the best way to design interventions, whether they're new policies or programs."

including those at the Biophysical Society Meeting and the Centers for Disease Control.

Laura Coe ('02) has moved to Italy, where she is working with the Italian Cochrane Centre. She is involved in a variety of projects to promote evidence-based medicine (EBM) in Italy. The center provides training for Italian researchers involved in writing Cochrane systematic reviews and disseminates information on EBM and the Cochrane Library to Italian health care practitioners.

Michele Bradford ('03) joined IRC (International Rescue Committee) in Burundi in June 2003. She serves as a program coordinator, which entails being donor liaison, managing grants and budgets, strategic planning, and technical backstopping for public health-related projects located in Bujumbura. She can be reached at michbradford@aol.com.

Ellen Donoghue ('03) is in Boston, where she works at John Snow, Inc. She can be reached at edonoghue@jsi.com.

Cameron Macauley ('03) received the 2003 Humanitarian Physician Assistant of the Year Award, which was presented in New Orleans at the American Academy of Physician Assistants annual conference. The award honors a physician assistant who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to human rights and exemplifies the PA profession in providing accessible and quality health care in the United States and abroad. Recently Cameron established the first training program for Yanomami indigenous health agents in Brazil.

Nancy Scott ('03) has been named project coordinator for the Zambia Exclusive Breastfeeding Study.

Shunling Tsang ('03) is a fellow in training development and health education at the Centers for Disease Control. She is in the epidemiology program office under the Division of Applied Public Health Training. >



::class notes

::MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Nelson Nyagah ('95) is the director of census planning and development in South Africa. His duties focus on developing census strategic/operational plans and overseeing the implementation of activity planning. He is also involved in the development and management of the current South Africa demographic and health survey.

Virginia Grenier-Minasian ('01) was mobilized as a reservist with the United States Navy in March 2003. She is an LCDR (lieutenant commander) Nurse Corps officer at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where many of those injured in the Iraq war receive care.

Anna Gutzler ('03) was selected as an ASPH/HRSA (Association of Schools of Public Health/Health Resources and Services Administration) fellow and has begun work at the Bureau of Health Professions in Washington, D.C. Her fellowship will last one year, with the possibility of a second-year extension.

Alice Richman ('03) continues to pursue her doctorate in public health at the University of South Florida. She is working on a domestic violence project in the Tampa area.

::SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Munro Proctor ('92) has been awarded the Ella Lyman Cabot Trust Award. Munro will use the \$25,000 award to help fund the long-standing AIDS orphans work that he and fellow BUSPH alumnus **Pius Tih ('92)** have undertaken in Cameroon.

Shantih Bisland-Beckett ('97) is director of health equity programs at the YWCA in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her priority is to increase women's access to health care.

Jeffrey Andal ('98) graduated from the Far Eastern University School of Medicine in

the Philippines and will start his residency in internal medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno. He proposed to his medical school sweetheart, Geraldine Aquino, on Easter Sunday 2003. They were married in December 2003 in the Philippines.

Janine Jurkowski ('98) received her Ph.D. in May 2003 from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Julie Ross ('00) continues to serve BUSPH as president of its Alumni Board. She began work as the injury-prevention program manager at Children's Hospital in Boston in the summer of 2003. Julie provides strategic direction, planning, and management of the hospital's community-oriented injury-prevention program, featuring a new Web site, the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, at www.injuryfree.org.

Jodi Sperber ('00, SSW'00) and her partner, Pippa Shulman, celebrated their partnership with a commitment ceremony in August 2003. Jodi is a consultant at John Snow, Inc.

Gabriel Garcia ('01, MED'01) is a doctoral student at the UCLA School of Public Health.

Elizabeth Dawson ('03) is a senior health policy analyst for the New York Senate in Albany.

Margie Skeer ('03, SSW'01) and **Sarah George ('03)** will publish "Are Local Restaurant Smoking Regulations Fostering Disparities in Health Protection? An Analysis of Town-Level Characteristics Related to Policy Adoption in Massachusetts" in the *American Journal of Public Health*. Margie's piece "The Descriptive Epidemiology of Local Restaurant Smoking Regulations in Massachusetts: An Analysis of the Protection of Restaurant Customers and Workers" was published in *Tobacco Control*.

Emily Williams ('03) has moved to Seattle, where she is a research project director at the VA hospital. Her research focuses on screening for alcohol use in disorders in primary care.

::IN MEMORIAM

Paula Levin ('79), a member of the first graduating class, died in November 2002.

Virginia Phillips ('87) died on February 16, 2003, after an accident at home. She first worked as a final applications consultant for Medical Information Technologies in Cambridge and subsequently began a successful career at Meditech, where, after several promotions, she became a manager of documentation. She is survived by her husband, Paul Rickter. ::

Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations

These three exceptional BUSPH alumni have received the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed by the School:

- JEANNINE RIVET ('81)
CEO, UnitedHealthcare
- RALPH TIMPERI ('83)
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Laboratory Sciences
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- HOWARD KOH ('95)
Associate Dean, Public Health Practice
Harvard School of Public Health

Who will be **next?**

To submit a name for consideration, please visit the School's Web site at www.bumc.bu.edu/sph/alumni, or call Alumni Officer Anne Lefavre at 617-414-1401.

health sphere



School of Public Health
Talbot Building
715 Albany Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston MA
Permit No. 1839